

**The Church of the Epiphany
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: December 11, 2007**

The meeting opened at 7 PM with a devotional on the temptation of Jesus after His baptism. General prayer time was followed by the vestry prayer.

Vestry Members Attendance: Present (P), Excused (E)

Black, Murray	P	Pantzer, Larry	P
Cummings, Ross	P	Reed, David	P
Gregg, Ted	P	Reiter, Scott	P
Holmes, Kevin	P	Stromberg, Margaret	P
Morris, Ralph	P	Ticer, John	P
Oliphant, Mark	P	Welch, Jan	P

Also present: Father Robin, Father Luke, Babette Arnold, Gin Edmunds, Lisa Ellis, Bill Fetzer, and Steve Mentzer.

Reports and Old Business:

1. Minutes – Larry.

The minutes of the November 13 meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote on a motion by Scott, seconded by Margaret, after removing [bracketed] notes and adding Bill Fetzer's assignment to Fellowship under item 7, Vestry Commissions.

2. Rector Report – Robin & Luke.

Robin expressed gratitude to Ken Bracy for volunteering to publish the Epiphany Candle, a weekly email update to the Epiphany Star.

Robin is working on Michael Green's book as source material the next sermon series. He would like to meet with home group leaders and others interested in discussing how we can implement this study more broadly. Sermon series will be a regular feature this year. Robin will be working on sermons as part of a "brown bag sabbatical" he will be attending at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in January.

Luke reported that the Lenten Series will draw from the book of Esther.

3. Chancellor Report – David.

David remarked and expanded on Gordon Coffee's 2 December litigation report to the congregation. He asked that we keep Gordon in prayer as the leader of our side of the battle. Both sides are currently preparing requested briefs addressing the judge's specific questions. We expect a decision in late January. Each side will then evaluate what to do next.

4. Warden Report – Murray and Ralph.

Please be in coordination with new vestry commission leaders during this transition period.

5. Treasurer and Finance Committee Report – Scott.

Scott read and submitted Housing Allowance Resolutions for Robin and Luke. These were passed by unanimous voice vote on a motion by David, seconded by John.

Scott described the data in the budget handout. The gap between the blue and orange lines is approximately \$196,000, which represents a dip into our reserves.

Scott distributed a draft "continuing resolution" budget. Larry noted that the next round of salary increases should be considered and possibly implemented consistent with our new fiscal year calendar. Mark stated that using actual second-half-2007 expenses as a starting

point did not work well for some commissions. For example, Ministry's major annual expense is Marriage Mentors, which occurs in February. The draft is insufficient for that. On a motion by David, seconded by Ted, the vestry unanimously agreed to continue our budget at 2007 levels until our next meeting, 15 January 2008, by which time the Finance Committee will have new recommendations.

6. Outreach Committee Report – Ted.

We should be constantly evangelizing. Ted asked us all to come to the potluck dinner for the persecuted church on Wednesday, 16 January, at 7:30 pm. Julian Dobbs, Executive Director of the Barnabas Fund, will speak. Christians in Iraq are of particular concern.

7. Vision Statement.

Upon further reflection, the Epiphany vision statement will remain, "To stand for Jesus Christ, grow together as God's family and make Him known through the power of the Holy Spirit." We should all have this committed to memory.

New Business

8. Planning and Growth – Lisa, John, Steve, Gin, and Babette.

Babette began by describing the draft 2008 events calendar, which will be provided electronically. Larry pointed out that Epiphany's participation in Hypothermia Response will not be as a week-long host. This is due to a new centralizing approach by Fairfax County, which reduced both the period during which churches would act as host and the number of people expected. There are other opportunities to serve individually or in small groups during the hypothermia season.

Lisa, John, Steve, and Gin distributed and discussed their "Strategic Planning Recap and New Initiatives." Lisa emphasized the book, "Reveal, Where are You?" by Greg Hawkins and Cally Parkinson. We need to create visions for existing ministries (consistent with our overall vision), understand and provide for our current demographics, and be prepared for change. Gin remarked, "When you have good news, you're ready to share it," comparing the way we share generic good news about things we've enjoyed to the way we should view sharing the gospel. Steve passed along a quote, "It's not about clever ideas or forming a task force, it's about believing in the living God!" Lisa has provided the vestry an electronic copy of the slides.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM by unanimous consent to a motion by John, seconded by Larry, and was followed by an Agape feast.

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Prepared by Larry Pantzer
Version: Approved